



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
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Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:

October 7, 2010

Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Public Scoping Comment Analysis Report

SUMMARY

In July 2010, a newsletter with a comment form was sent out to individuals and organizations within the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area Feasibility Study area in Alabama and Georgia. The newsletters were also distributed at public meetings and other events within the Area July and August of 2010. The newsletter provided information about national heritage areas, the National Park Service's criteria for establishment, and included a bulleted list of Preliminary Interpretive. The newsletter asked for public feedback on the impact of the proposed heritage area, the preliminary interpretive themes, and possible resources that represent these themes. The comment form asked the following questions:

1. How would the creation of the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area affect the communities and/or resources within the designated area, negatively or positively?
2. Do you have comments or concerns about the suggested preliminary themes for the proposed Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area?
3. Do you have suggestions for additional themes or subthemes that tell the nationally significant stories of the Chattahoochee Trace region? If so, how are these themes represented (resources, traditions, customs, or beliefs) in the proposed Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area?

Four public meetings were held within the proposed Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area on July 21 and 22, 2010. These meetings included National Park Service speakers, who introduced the project and provided general information about national heritage areas and feasibility studies. The meetings provided the public an opportunity to express their thoughts and questions about the potential designation of a heritage area. Discussions focused on potential impacts associated with designation, and identification of the cultural traditions, history and heritage, and natural and cultural resources representing the preliminary interpretive themes. In addition to the comment cards, the public was invited to submit comments using the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The PEPC webpage for this project asked the public to respond to the same four questions posed in the newsletter's comment card.

The official public scoping comment period for the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area Feasibility Study opened on July 01, 2010, and closed on October 4, 2010. Comments received through October 4, 2010 are included in this summary. Comments were received via either 1) hardcopy comment form or 2) directly input into the PEPC website by the commenter (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/chtr>). No additional comments were received via email.

Respondents represented three states: Alabama (23), Georgia (18), and Florida (1). They represented state, county, municipal governments, private organizations, and private individuals. During the official comment period 42 individual correspondences were received with 21 responding electronically into PEPC and 21 responding using the hardcopy comment forms. Altogether, the public input yielded 79 total individual comments, which are organized by comment code.

Every correspondence was individually analyzed and specific comments were categorized according to their content. A comment could include identification of an interpretive theme or resource, a specific issue, concern, or idea. The majority of the correspondences included several comments, and therefore, the number of actual comments is much greater than the number of correspondences received.

Nearly all of the correspondence (35 out of 42) included positive comments in support of the feasibility study and the Chattahoochee Trace study area's potential inclusion in the national park system as a National Heritage Area. Eighteen individual comments agreed with the preliminary interpretive themes included in the newsletter and public meetings. Eleven comments suggested new ideas for these interpretive themes. Two comments noted wildlife and wildlife habitat characteristics within the study area. Two comments suggest expanding the study area to include the Apalachicola River corridor. One comment expressed concern over potential regulatory restrictions included in a national heritage area designation.

With the exception of the nine individual comments requesting inclusion on the study's mailing list, all of the comments received are provided below. These comments are shown verbatim in order to maintain the integrity of the comment.

Additionally, National Park Service staff recorded public comments and feedback pertaining to the six preliminary interpretive themes for the corridor, as well as the identification of important sites or areas within the study area. These comments are compiled in an attachment to this report (see Attachment).

The National Park Service greatly appreciates the participation of many individuals and organizations during the public scoping period of the feasibility study process. The scoping comments will provide a solid foundation for the planning and development of the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Feasibility Study.

Full Comment Listing Sorted by Assigned Code(s)

GE0001 General Comments in Support of Project

Comments respond to the question: How would the creation of the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area affect the communities and/or resources within the designated area, negatively or positively?

Correspondence Id: 12 Comment Id: 145226

Comment Text: 1. This will generate positive interest and raise awareness that will translate into more tourists coming into the area. I am impressed with the depth of planning and insight that went into this project. 2. I think the themes are perfectly on target. 3. No 4. No

Organization: Alabama Tourism Department

Correspondence Id: 38 Comment Id: 150793

Comment Text: Enhancement of interest in history, interest in our own local history. Preservation of historical structures destinations of locations where such events happened. Discovery of 'lost' locations where history was made. Economic regeneration through tourism.

Correspondence Id: 37 Comment Id: 150785

Comment Text: Positively - Promoting the area as a region collectively would be better than each town or community doing seperate promotions individually - The sum is better than the parts.

Correspondence Id: 36 Comment Id: 150780

Comment Text: Positively

Correspondence Id: 35 Comment Id: 150776

Comment Text: It will be a very postive impact. The designation with the corresponding posting on Internet sites will promote continued local support & development of the area, and tourism and education efforts.

Correspondence Id: 34 Comment Id: 150772

Comment Text: Existing parks & historic structures could be enhanced if the designation is approved. 2. More interaction & cooperation would occur if the various tourist attractions are combined within one larger, designated area.

Correspondence Id: 34 Comment Id: 150770

Comment Text: Boost tourism & increased sales tax % lodging tax revenues. 2. Increase property values as the designation would make the area a desirable place to live and/or retire. 3. Improves preservation efforts.

Correspondence Id: 33 Comment Id: 150769

Comment Text: Very positive as it would act as a stimulus to tourism and economic development.

Correspondence Id: 32 Comment Id: 150767

Comment Text: I think there would a very positive on the communities. The creation and designation would increase the interest, travel and possible economic development of the area and individual communities.

Correspondence Id: 31 Comment Id: 150760

Comment Text: Tremendous Tourism Capability

Correspondence Id: 30 Comment Id: 150759

Comment Text: It would strengthen the entire area by providing an organized/cooperative plan for combining the assets of each individual community's heritage promotions into a "whole".

Correspondence Id: 29 Comment Id: 150757

Comment Text: This would be a very positive move. It will build on historic tourism in an area that is very rich & has much to offer. A Great Economic Benefit!

Organization: State of Georgia

Correspondence Id: 28 Comment Id: 150755

Comment Text: Such recognition would enhance pride within the region regarding the history, culture, and folklore on the river region.

Correspondence Id: 27 Comment Id: 150752

Comment Text: Positively. I see an effort to tell a balanced or honest story of all peoples in the Chattahoochee Trace. For too long cultural tourism has been see through the lens of the "Old South". Let's take this opportunity to shift that.

Correspondence Id: 26 Comment Id: 150749

Comment Text: Positively. It would encourage tourism to the area and thus increase revenue.

Correspondence Id: 25 Comment Id: 150746

Comment Text: It would have a very positive effect. First, it would make the residents of the Chattahoochee River Valley take their history seriously. Second, it would provide impetus to the elementary & high schools to teach local history. Third, it would have a very positive impact in tourism.

Correspondence Id: 24 Comment Id: 150744

Comment Text: Tri Rivers Waterway Development Assoc. A non-profit organization, promoting the ALF Waterway which runs through the proposed Chattahoochee Trace NHA, supports the NPS position of recommending the creation of the designation. This designation of the Chattahoochee Trace would be consistent with mission of TRWNA, in that it would recognize various Middle Chattahoochee cultural and historical resources, in a manner that such to promote tourism. The NHA designation could [unk] a congressional appropriations promoting the area - there is no apparent basis to conclude that.

Organization: Tri-Rivers Waterway Development Assoc.

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 150742

Comment Text: There would only be positive impacts. Tourism & retiree attraction are the most obvious benefits. The improved quality of life for the area could also attract industry.

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 150738

Comment Text: The only negative effect would be the extra clerical work involved in filling out paperwork etc. Someone would need to be in place to handle the extra work. The positive effect would be that the communities would develop a closer bond with each other in an effort to draw attention & support for what each has to offer.

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 150736

Comment Text: This would be a very positive designation and is much needed for the region. Emphasizing the rich history and water borne resources of the region is a treasure we cannot afford to lose. Instead we must emphasize it.

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 146395

Comment Text: The creation of the National Heritage Area would positively affect the communities and resources along the Chattahoochee Trace by raising the awareness of its significance in North American history. Tourism would increase. Historical and cultural studies/literature would increase, and these would find richer topics to uncover. The eventual deepening of community respect would ensure the enhancement and preservation of the area's beauty.

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 146393

Comment Text: this would be a much needed boost for an area that sees little tourist activity, partially due to lack of financial resources and being overwhelmed by the population and interests in Metro Atlanta. There are MANY heritage/tourism interests in the Chattahoochee Trace that could be serviced and coordinated by a NHA designation.

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 146391

Comment Text: The formation of the Trace area would give us a single, cohesive component for marketing and economic development that would allow us to focus on in unison. It would be a very positive affect. Our area is steeped in rich history and folklore from the 1800's up to our more recent generations. We are filled with characters and stories of colloquial interest not only to our locals but to visitors in our region that should be shared with all.

Organization: City of Abbeville

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 146388

Comment Text: The creation of the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area would affect Abbeville in a positive way. Abbeville has a rich heritage beginning with the Creek Indians. Henry County, the Mother County, included Houston and Barbour Counties, so the history here in Abbeville is the oldest in the area. Already many visit the Abbeville Court House to research geneology. Also, many visit our local library for the same purpose. We are searching for more ways to bring visitors into our quaint town ... a slow-paced, friendly, caring community.

Organization: Abbeville City

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 146387

Comment Text: The creation of a National Heritage area in this region would be of tremendous benefit to communities here in the ongoing collaborative effort to raise awareness of its many unique cultural heritage attractions. There are no negatives.

Organization: The Columbus Museum

Correspondence Id: 14 **Comment Id:** 146383

Comment Text: Creation of the Chattahoochee Trace NHA will provide direct federal funding to this traditionally undeserved and impecunious region, and enhance the ability of the HCC as management agent to leverage local funds.

Organization: HCC Board of Directors

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 146382

Comment Text: the Chattahoochee Trace designated as a National Heritage Area would have a very positive economic impact on our region

Organization: Phenix City-Russell County Chamber of Commerce

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 145237

Comment Text: 1. These will be my first opening comments and I will submit others after the public meetings and before the closing of the comment period. I do not live in the designated area but live in the adjoining area of the Apalachicola River Basin to the south and visit the area frequently. The creation of the Heritage Area will help these communities realized, prioritize, protect and develop their ecotourism resources, natural, cultural, historical and agricultural on a level with other economic efforts that often lead to a degradation of the ecotourism resources. "To gain a proprietary interest in something, to get to know and learn about these resources, is to gain a love and affection for them and a desire to protect them." Ecotourism is a concept being used worldwide to protect natural, cultural and historic resources and we should do that here. This is a very good thing not only for the designated area but adjoining areas as well! 2. The themes are fine. 3. The biological diversity and natural resources of the Apalachicola River Basin to the south brought many botanists and naturalists to the region as well as the impacts of the maritime commercial fishery and commerce of the Bay and Gulf. Accordingly, the Chattahoochee Trace begins or ends in Apalachicola at the Gulf and certainly not at the Jim Woodruff dam in Chattahoochee Florida. This is a political boundary and timing issue for this study and designation. You will here me through RiverWay South and RiverWay South Apalachicola, and otherwise, advocate for consideration of another/separate feasibility study of the Apalachicola River Basin as a Heritage Area that is the natural and actual southern part of the Chattahoochee Trace. I hope we can use the "draft" of this study process to launch such an effort. Not to include the Apalachicola River, Bay, the Gulf and maritime history is simply to ignore the obvious and logical part of the trace that is the Apalachicola River Basin.

Organization: RiverWay South

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 145236

Comment Text: 1. Positively, very positively. We are trying to create a "trail" of venues to attract tourist on the Georgia side of the corridor. This would greatly increase our chances of getting folks from both sides of the state line..... And passers through on any north and south route. 2. The Chattahoochee river has always been a route for commerce, visitors, and sportsmen forever. This designation and promotion

will make this area a viable place to live and work. Only through more commerce and spending will we ever grow. We welcome this designation. 3. We encourage you to include Fort Gaines, Georgia and its many historic places on the heritage area. Much history is here and it needs to be seen and preserved. Present through literature in designated tourist stop areas so they will know of our existence. Also, a web site would be a wonderful way to inform.

Organization: Clay County Economic Development Council

Correspondence Id: 6 Comment Id: 145235

Comment Text: 1. Positively. The creation of the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area will be of benefit to the Chattahoochee County area which needs tourist trade and retail development. The River Bend Park Area is currently leased by Chattahoochee County and this would increase commercial activity there. 2. The suggested preliminary themes are very appropriate and fitting for the area as it is steeped in Native American History, Colonial History, US Military History, Economics, Folklore and Architectural Heritage. 3. Agricultural History and development should be added as this area was very representative of the crops and agricultural methods used through the years. Dothan, Al. still reigns as the Peanut capital of the world and many old cotton gins remain spread throughout the area.

Organization: Chattahoochee County Historical Society

Correspondence Id: 7 Comment Id: 145234

Comment Text: 1. I think it would be a major enhancement for the communities in the designated area-- in tourism, local pride, and improved quality of life. 2. I am not sure I understand "the preliminary themes." Maybe there is something on the web site that I missed, but I do believe this area is rich in natural beauty, in history, and in people and attractions that are interesting and unique.

Organization: Alabama Department of Archives and History

Correspondence Id: 8 Comment Id: 145232

Comment Text: 1. The creation of the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage area would positively affect communities I work with in the Chattahoochee watershed which is part of the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint river basin. Our mission is to preserve protect and promote the unique cultural heritage the ACF and a National Heritage Area would complement those goals.

Organization: RiverWay South

Correspondence Id: 9 Comment Id: 145231

Comment Text: Designation of the Chattahoochee Trace region as a National Heritage Area would bring a tremendous boost to efforts to market the region to domestic and international tourists. It is a region rich in historical and cultural assets that shelters many stories as yet untold. Designation would provide a needed shot of momentum to continue those efforts by drawing partners together and providing a focal point for all our disparate efforts. I am fully in support of this effort.

Organization: Georgia Tourism/Georgia Dept of Economic Development

Correspondence Id: 10 Comment Id: 145228

Comment Text: 1. This would be a great opportunity/resource for the communities within the designated area. The majority of the area is sparsely populated with limited resources (both financially and technically) to preserve the unique heritage, cultural, and environmental resources in the area. This designation would act as an educational tool to the visitors, as well as the residents in the area. The designation could attract more tourist to the region thus spurring economic development opportunities.

Organization: River Valley Regional Commission

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 145227

Comment Text: 1. Increase tourism and economic development. 2. No concerns and I have a very positive attitude for the proposed area. 3. No 4. yes

Organization: Alabama Historical Commission

THCOM0001 THEMES - Comments on study area themes already identified

Comments respond to the question: Do you have comments or concerns about the suggested preliminary themes for the proposed Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area?

Correspondence Id: 14 **Comment Id:** 146384

Comment Text: Colonial Era theme is unique in our national history. The Chattahoochee Trace is one of the few areas where three colonial powers vied for domination and were all played by the native Americans one against the other. That most of the Trace falls within former Creek/Muscogean tribal areas is unique. The Creek nation is understudied, but from what we already know, Creeks played a tremendously important role along the British/Spanish/French/Creek frontier well into the Early National period of US history, and are a great archeological/anthropological subject for study as a society. NHA designation will bring needed attention to this aspect of our American heritage/history and foster further study

Organization: HCC Board of Directors

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 150794

Comment Text: No 3. No ** Civil War and Reconstruction - none too few. History of indigenous people - none to few. Relationship to all wars & statesmanship.

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 150786

Comment Text: Suggested preliminary themes are fine. 3. River Traffic - Economy Cotton Trade on the Chattahoochee Civil War and Reconstruction Politics - Governors, senators ** River traffic - made Eufaula and its citizens wealthy enough to build architecturally significant private homes and commercial buildings Cotton - basis of growth and recovery of Eufaula/Barbour Co. and regional economy - Politics - both on local, state and federal level important to region 6 Alabama governors, several senators came from the region.

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 150777

Comment Text: Indian heritage, political & military, architecture.

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 150771

Comment Text: Civil War historic events related to this area. 2. Creek Indian lifestyles & culture 3. Architectural significance of ante-bellum homes

Correspondence Id: 32 Comment Id: 150768

Comment Text: Something that ties together the river influence, paper mills, agriculture, nuclear plant possibly with our 190 year old history in this area. 3. Something that tells the story of the beginning turpentine industry, lumber industry and cattle and livestock production. Then follows the cotton and peanut farming to transcend to the industrial facets in the area at the present time. ** Most of the towns and communities have at least one thing that is magnified. Something like the murals in Dothan. The old confederate naval yard in Columbus. The textile mills in the valley area.

Correspondence Id: 31 Comment Id: 150763

Comment Text: Civil War reenactments, further work on Fort Civil War ear railroad where tracks still exist for movement of soldiers north dining way period cannons, armaments, firing of period weapons in era costumes.

Correspondence Id: 31 Comment Id: 150762

Comment Text: Ft. Mitchell National Park should continue to receive funds to enlarge, restore historic buildings, names of famous historical visitors and events. The tourism attraction of the park, National Cemetery and the [unk] are already proving fantastic draws, further attractions would certainly enhance all three sites. Ft. Mitchell National Park should continue to receive funds to enlarge, restore historic buildings, names of famous historical visitors and events. The tourism attraction of the park, National Cemetery and the [unk] are already proving fantastic draws, further attractions would certainly enhance all three sites.

Correspondence Id: 31 Comment Id: 150761

Comment Text: An as officer of both the Historic Chattahoochee Commission and the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association we have held Native American groups, school groups and civic organizations to create interest. The creek Tribe sent a large group from Oklahoma with stick ball, historical seminars and other educational groups with Native American teachers. All have had and will continue to have positive impact.

Correspondence Id: 29 Comment Id: 150758

Comment Text: The theme should be on the great natural beauty & heritage of this area. 3. No - - Many parts are untouched by time. Great native American history.

Organization: State of Georgia

Correspondence Id: 27 Comment Id: 150753

Comment Text: Themes seem okay but what about the Environmental History of the region. I'm concerned that [unk] has been thrown in and it doesn't touch the river.

Correspondence Id: 25 Comment Id: 150747

Comment Text: The Valley is filled with important historic sites dating from the Archaic Period to modern times. Burial & platform [unk] complexes dot the Valley, which has been occupied for at least 12,000 years. One of the largest constellations of historic Native American town-sites in the Americas is found here. So is a Spanish Fort from 1890.

Correspondence Id: 23 Comment Id: 150743

Comment Text: 2. They are all appropriate. 3. The role of industry in shaping this area should be highlighted. It was a key factor in the areas development - agriculture & textile, timber, navigation, etc.

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 150739

Comment Text: I think the suggested preliminary themes are right on target. The Chattahoochee Trace is rich in it's history of an area settled by Indians; then the early white settlers appeared. Early military involvement plus the location of Ft. Benning as one of the most important U.S. military bases has a great impact. The changing resources from agriculture to industry is very evident. The other themes fit perfectly also.

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 146396

Comment Text: Postcolonial history (c.1790-1820) would add a broader significance for this area if adjoined to Colonial History. Extending this period to 1861 would be an alternative.

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 146392

Comment Text: combine 'colonial' theme and 'native American' theme. There was very little activity in the [Chattahoochee] Trace except for the native Americans before 1820

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 146389

Comment Text: During WWII some of the German POW camps were in this area and perhaps along the Chattahoochee Trace. Many worked on farms in Henry County and have been back in later years to visit those farms.

Organization: Abbeville City

Correspondence Id: 14 **Comment Id:** 146385

Comment Text: military history is an important theme in the Chattahoochee Trace. Camps Rucker and Benning served the US Army beginning in World War 2 and became permanent forts thereafter. The former is the Army Helicopter Command, the latter is the "Home of the Infantry." Both exist within the proposed Trace NHA. I wonder if any other NHA has this kind of military presence and history. Such a highly concentrated military presence speaks volumes about the Trace, the South, and is quite unusual in the US as a whole. It merits having its story studied, analyzed, and told.

Organization: HCC Board of Directors

THNEW0001 NEW THEMES - Comments Pertaining to the Proposed New Study Themes

Comments respond to the question: Do you have suggestions for additional themes or subthemes that tell the nationally significant stories of the Chattahoochee Trace region? If so, how are these themes represented (resources, traditions, customs, or beliefs) in the proposed Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Area?

Correspondence Id: 15 **Comment Id:** 146386

Comment Text: having something on the natural heritage of this area and how it interplays with the cultural distinctiveness will ultimately need to be addressed. It is a diverse region geographically, anchored by a common shared resource--the Chattahoochee. The river has helped foster both agricultural and industrial heritage, and played a role in several areas of its development.

Organization: The Columbus Museum

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 150756

Comment Text: 2. The themes are entirely appropriate to the Chattahoochee Valley, though I might add religion to this list. 3. The region's rich religious heritage from native American revivalist Red stick movement to evangelists Sam Jones and Bob Jones would be an appropriate addition.

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 150754

Comment Text: Environmental history from Bartram to the impacts of the mills & military bases. It would include farming/plantation history, the contemporary pine straw industry - cotton [unk] and the implications of the loss of long-leaved pine!

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 150751

Comment Text: I think the area in Ala. should be emphasized, not only for its antebellum importance, but for its Civil Rights history.

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 150750

Comment Text: I thought they were good, but educational institutions should be included.

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 150748

Comment Text: Yes. The period of white/black settlement from approximately 1750 to 1840 is particularly well represented. Thousands of documents exist from this period, which includes the removal of the Creek of Muskogee tribe of Indians. The antebellum period is also richly evident, with plantations, river boats, slavery and the cotton trade very much a part of the historic fabric.

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 150741

Comment Text: The evolution of education in the area is very noteworthy as various institutions of learning were established. That should be reflected somehow as the themes or subthemes are developed. Because I am from Barbour County, that is the only area I know about but I'm sure educational facilities were important in the entire area. ** Each school or educational facility, whether it still exists or not, should be listed as part of the development starting with the earliest schools, their level of advancement, their location, how they impacted every area, and the 'present' facilities as well as those in a proposed state for the future.

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 150737

Comment Text: Recreation centered on the many lakes of the region is important to me. In addition to the history of the region, the recreational values of the lakes- especially West Point must be prominent.

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 146396

Comment Text: Postcolonial history (c.1790-1820) would add a broader significance for this area if adjoined to Colonial History. Extending this period to 1861 would be an alternative.

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 146394

Comment Text: Ghost towns or abandoned towns, 1820-1940. The remnants of these towns are scattered

all over this area--many of which had small colleges, newspapers, and hotels. This is touched on by most of the proposed themes, but Economics and Industry seems closest to it.

Correspondence Id: 19 Comment Id: 146392

Comment Text: combine 'colonial' theme and 'native American' theme. there was very little activity in the Chatt. Trace except for the native Americans before 1820

AE12000 Affected Environment: Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat

Correspondence Id: 10 Comment Id: 145229

Comment Text: 2. I was surprised that our unique environmental resources were not listed. Long Leaf Pines, gopher tortoises, bald eagles, red-cockaded woodpeckers, shoals spider lilies, plum-leaf azaleas, and numerous other plants and animals that are indigenous to this area could play a role in this designation. Many rare species exist in the area and their habitats are becoming threatened; the designation could help protect their habitats.

Organization: River Valley Regional Commission

Correspondence Id: 15 Comment Id: 146386

Comment Text: having something on the natural heritage of this area and how it interplays with the cultural distinctiveness will ultimately need to be addressed. It is a diverse region geographically, anchored by a common shared resource--the Chattahoochee. The river has helped foster both agricultural and industrial heritage, and played a role in several areas of its development.

Organization: The Columbus Museum

Correspondence Id: 3 Comment Id: 145237

Comment Text: 1. These will be my first opening comments and I will submit others after the public meetings and before the closing of the comment period. I do not live in the designated area but live in the adjoining area of the Apalachicola River Basin to the south and visit the area frequently. The creation of the Heritage Area will help these communities realized, prioritize, protect and develop their ecotourism resources, natural, cultural, historical and agricultural on a level with other economic efforts that often lead to a degradation of the ecotourism resources. "To gain a proprietary interest in something, to get to know and learn about these resources, is to gain a love and affection for them and a desire to protect them." Ecotourism is a concept being used worldwide to protect natural, cultural and historic resources and we should do that here. This is a very good thing not only for the designated area but adjoining areas as well! 2. The themes are fine. 3. The biological diversity and natural resources of the Apalachicola River Basin to the south brought many botanists and naturalists to the region as well as the impacts of the maritime commercial fishery and commerce of the Bay and Gulf. Accordingly, the Chattahoochee Trace begins or ends in Apalachicola at the Gulf and certainly not at the Jim Woodruff dam in Chattahoochee Florida. This is a political boundary and timing issue for this study and designation. You will here me through RiverWay South and RiverWay South Apalachicola, and otherwise, advocate for consideration of another/separate feasibility study of the Apalachicola River Basin as a Heritage Area that is the natural and actual southern part of the Chattahoochee Trace. I hope we can use the "draft" of this study process to launch such an effort. Not to include the Apalachicola River, Bay, the Gulf and maritime history is simply to ignore the obvious and logical part of the trace that is the Apalachicola River Basin.

Organization: RiverWay South

SA0001 STUDY AREA - Comments pertaining to areas that should be included in or excluded from the study area

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Correspondence Id: 8 Comment Id: 145233

Comment Text: 2. I do not have concerns about the suggested preliminary themes for the proposed Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage area. I would like to see and eventual expansion to include not only the Flint river but the Apalachicola as well. 3. I think there may be other themes that may tell a story but don't have examples and/or ideas for what those might be. Everything I've heard from the National Park representatives were most appropriate and I feel they are open to anything that might emerge later. Expanding the area could definitely lead to a richer story and define a region which has so much in common with the Chattahoochee Trace. Even so, the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage area would be a fantastic beginning.

Organization: RiverWay South

Correspondence Id: 3 Comment Id: 145237

Comment Text: 1. These will be my first opening comments and I will submit others after the public meetings and before the closing of the comment period. I do not live in the designated area but live in the adjoining area of the Apalachicola River Basin to the south and visit the area frequently. The creation of the Heritage Area will help these communities realized, prioritize, protect and develop their ecotourism resources, natural, cultural, historical and agricultural on a level with other economic efforts that often lead to a degradation of the ecotourism resources. "To gain a proprietary interest in something, to get to know and learn about these resources, is to gain a love and affection for them and a desire to protect them." Ecotourism is a concept being used worldwide to protect natural, cultural and historic resources and we should do that here. This is a very good thing not only for the designated area but adjoining areas as well! 2. The themes are fine. 3. The biological diversity and natural resources of the Apalachicola River Basin to the south brought many botanists and naturalists to the region as well as the impacts of the maritime commercial fishery and commerce of the Bay and Gulf. Accordingly, the Chattahoochee Trace begins or ends in Apalachicola at the Gulf and certainly not at the Jim Woodruff dam in Chattahoochee Florida. This is a political boundary and timing issue for this study and designation. You will here me through RiverWay South and RiverWay South Apalachicola, and otherwise, advocate for consideration of another/separate feasibility study of the Apalachicola River Basin as a Heritage Area that is the natural and actual southern part of the Chattahoochee Trace. I hope we can use the "draft" of this study process to launch such an effort. Not to include the Apalachicola River, Bay, the Gulf and maritime history is simply to ignore the obvious and logical part of the trace that is the Apalachicola River Basin.

Organization: RiverWay South

AE20000 Affected Environment: Land use

Correspondence Id: 24 Comment Id: 150745

Comment Text: The designation would lead to regulatory restrictions, at least in any [unk] or formal sense. We assume that in the designation statute explicitly providing that there is no new regulatory restriction on property rights.

Organization: Tri-Rivers Waterway Development Assoc.